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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Detective Joseph Martinez Promoted to Sergeant

Kankakee, IL – Long-term police officer, Joseph Martinez, has been promoted to sergeant within the Kankakee Police Department after serving 14 years. Sergeant Martinez has been a detective for the past eight years. He stated he hopes to continue to bridge the gap and lead by example.

"I grew up in Kankakee on South Nelson Avenue. I applied to become a police officer in 2005. Back then, I was one of a few Hispanics in the police department and I am humbled by this promotion, especially since we have a strong Hispanic community. I am happy to be a voice for them as well because at times they may neglect to report things to the police due to fear of miscommunication. I'm also happy to bridge the gap between younger officers and senior officers while we work to better serve our community," said Sergeant Martinez.

"I would like to congratulate Sergeant Martinez on his promotion. I recall him telling me that he wanted to be an example for the Hispanic community and he has worked hard to earn this opportunity. I believe our city becomes stronger as we increase the diversity among leadership in the department. This promotion is only the second of a Hispanic officer in the department's history and that sends a strong message in regard to being inclusive and affording opportunities to all who work hard. I wish him well as he continues to grow in leadership," said Mayor Wells-Armstrong.

"We are very happy to promote officer Joseph Martinez to sergeant. He gained a lot of experience as a detective and worked well within our department for the last 14 years. He will be a great supervisor and leader for our officers," said Police Chief, Frank Kosman.

Sergeant Martinez graduated from Kankakee High School. Martinez obtained his Bachelor's degree in public safety management from Calumet College of St. Joseph

and is also a United States Marine Corps veteran. He is married to his wife, Amanda Martinez. The two have three children, Leiyla, Ryder and Dash Martinez.

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The City of Kankakee is dedicated to protecting, building and nurturing the community while enhancing lives. We are a historic, vibrant, and active riverfront community. We continue to transform into an extraordinary place to dream, grow, and thrive. Embracing our diversity, we strive to be progressive, inclusive, and innovative. For more information on the City of Kankakee, please visit the website at www.citykankakee-il.gov.